

THOMAS POLLOCK.

MARCH 26, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. LOUDENSLAGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 2176.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2176) entitled "An act granting a pension to Thomas Pollock," beg leave to submit the following report, and recommend that said bill do pass, with an amendment:

Said bill is accompanied by Senate Report No. 348, this session, and the same, fully setting forth the facts, is adopted by your committee as their report, except so much thereof as fixing the rate of pension at \$20 per month.

Amend by striking out all after the word "California," in line 7, and substitute therefor the words "at such rate as the degree of his alleged disability may entitle him to."

[Senate Report No. 348, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2176) granting a pension to Thomas Pollock, have examined the same and report:

It appears from the records of the War Department that the claimant enlisted on the 11th day of March, 1852, at Watervleit Arsenal, and was assigned to the Ordnance Department, Watervleit Arsenal, United States Army, and was discharged for disability incurred in the line of duty—incurable varicocele—at Bernicia Arsenal, Cal., April 8, 1853.

Claimant made application for pension December, 1889, alleging that during the spring of 1853, while in the service of the United States as artisan at the Bernicia Arsenal, in the State of California, while placing some heavy machinery, called bullet machines, he received a rupture on the left side; that he was treated for the same in the army hospital for about one month, and was attended by the army physician; that he was discharged for this disability; that it has been getting worse ever since. Claimant has been unable to furnish all the evidence required by the Pension Bureau on account of the great length of time that has elapsed. None of his comrades can be found, their address not being known to the Pension Bureau. The affidavit of his physician is on file, also the report of the examining surgeon, showing that claimant is now suffering from the same disability for which he was discharged from the United States service. Four of his neighbors who have known him for many years testify that he is regarded as a man of truth and veracity, and that he had frequently told them of his disabilities.

It is shown by medical evidence that the claimant is unable to earn a living by manual labor or in any other way. He is now nearly 68 years of age. The claimant was undoubtedly entitled to a pension at the time of his discharge, but as he, like many other deserving soldiers, declined to make application as long as he could make a living, now finds that he is unable to furnish the necessary evidence to complete his claim.

Your committee consider this an unusually strong and worthy case, and earnestly recommend the passage of the bill with an amendment.

Amend by striking out "twenty-five," in line 7, and insert in lieu thereof the word "twenty."